

**NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING MULTIPLE START CODONS AND  
HISTIDINE TAGS**

**ABSTRACT**

Compositions and methods for identifying nucleotide fragments that contain an open reading frame are provided. Compositions comprise a nucleotide sequence that encodes, in each of the three possible reading frames, an ATG start codon and a histidine tag, and vectors comprising such a nucleotide sequence. The vectors may be provided with cloning sites for insertion of nucleotide sequences of interest 5' or 3' to the 3-frame His-tag DNA sequence. Vectors also are provided with cloning sites for inserting nucleotide sequences of interest 3' of the ATG start codon and 5' of the 3-frame His-tag DNA sequence.

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